

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 05948 060704Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12  
TRSE-00 /090 W

-----033768 060709Z /14

O R 051702Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2979  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION SINAI

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NKKO. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: IS, US  
SUBJECT: BEGIN'S CHANGING EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE WASHINGTON  
TALKS INVITES PRESS CRITICISM

REFTEL: TEL AVIV 5782

1. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S CHANGING CHARACTERIZATION  
OF HIS AND FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON  
IS SETTING THE TONE FOR PRESS COMMENTS AND CRITICISM.  
THUS FRONTPAGE STORIES HAVE MOVED AWAY FROM AN INITIAL  
ALBEIT CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM AND GRATIFICATION OVER THE WARM  
RECEPTION ACCORDED TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO DECLARATIONS  
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THAT THE DEADLOCK IS LIKELY TO REMAIN UNCHANGED.

2. YEDIDOT'S TUESDAY HEADLINE STORY AND SIMILAR ONES IN OTHER  
PAPERS THE FOLLOWING DAY STRESSED BEGIN'S OBSERVATION TO  
REPORTERS "THAT A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE PEACE PROCESS  
MIGHT BE AT HAND."...ADDITIONALLY, MOST REPORTS STRESSED  
THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING U.S.-ISRAELI

RELATIONS, AS WELL AS THE NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE  
HARD DECISIONS ON THE WEST BANK AFTER BEGIN'S (AND DAYAN'S)  
RETURN. ACCOMPANYING THESE REPORTS WERE COMMENTARIES SKEPTICAL  
OF BEGIN'S BREAKTHROUGH PRONOUNCEMENT AND CRITICAL  
OF HIS INABILITY "TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FESTIVE CONGRATULATIONS  
AND POLITICAL REALITY."

3. CRITICISM OF THE PRIME MINISTER INTENSIFIED FOLLOWING HIS  
DENIAL OF HIS PREVIOUS REMARKS, REPORTED IN YESTERDAY'S  
PRESS. MARCUS (IN HAARETZ) PRESENTED A VERBATIM ACCOUNT OF  
HIS CONFRONTATION WITH BEGIN OVER THE VERACITY OF THE PRIME  
MINISTER'S DENIAL; BEGIN COMES OF SECOND BEST.

4. IN TODAY'S (MAY 5) PRESS BEGIN IS REPORTED TO HAVE  
ACCEPTED THE BLAME FOR ANY MISUNDERSTANDING WHILE PROVIDING  
YET A THIRD CHARACTERIZATION OF HIS WASHINGTON  
VISIT: NO BREAKTHROUGH HAS OCCURRED, BUT "HOPE FOR A BREAK-  
THROUGH" REMAINS.

5. IN SUM, BEGIN'S VISIT MAY HAVE GONE BETTER THAN A  
SKEPTICAL ISRAELI PRESS AND PUBLIC HAD EXPECTED, BUT HE HAS  
LOST MUCH OF THE POLITICAL CREDIT. MOST SAW THIS  
SIMPLY AS ANOTHER OF HIS PERIODIC BINGES OF OPTIMISM  
WHICH, HOWEVER, "HAD LITTLE TO DO WITH REALITY." (DAVAR'S  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ZEMER.)  
NEVERTHELESS, THE PRESS APPEARS TO AGREE IN GENERAL  
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THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE ATMOSPHERICS OF U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS  
HAS OCCURRED. ANOTHER THEME RUNNING THROUGH MUCH  
OF THE COMMENTARY IS THE IMPRESSION THAT A NEW (METHODOLOGICAL)  
FELXIBILITY CAN BE DETECTED IN BOTH THE AMERICAN AND ISRAELI  
APPROACHES. THIS NOW GIVES RISE TO MUCH NEW SPECULATION  
ABOUT UPCOMING NEGOTIATING STRATEGIES AND DEVELOPMENTS, WHICH  
DIVIDES THE PRESS OVER THE ARGUMENT WHETHER BEGIN IS CAPABLE  
OF FLEXIBILITY AND CAN OR WILL RISE TO THE OCCASION  
WHEN ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM AND DAYAN BY SECRETARY  
VANCE AND PRESIDENT CARTER REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE  
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AFTER A FIVE-YEAR INTERIM PERIOD.(SEPTEL).  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, PEACE TALKS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TELAV05948  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780193-0670  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 106  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 89663aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 TEL AVIV 1978, 78 TEL AVIV 5782  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2773290  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BEGIN'S CHANGING EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF THE WASHINGTON TALKS INVITES PRESS CRITICISM  
**TAGS:** OVIP, MPOL, IS, US, (BEGIN, MENAHEM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/89663aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014